GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1766
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2016
Anaemia and Breast Cancer among Women
Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken certain measures for the prevention of the diseases relating to women particularly anaemia and breast cancer and to increase the awareness thereof in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has laid down any goals for the total eradication of anaemia in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make the haemoglobin enriching and anaemia curing supplements easily available; and

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to open special hospitals for the cheap treatment of women related diseases and to increase awareness thereof in Bundelkhand, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (c): Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the steps taken to tackle anaemia in women include:

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2013 launched "National Iron Plus Initiative" as a comprehensive strategy to combat the public health challenge of Iron Deficiency Anemia prevalent across the life cycle. There are age specific interventions with Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation and Deworming for improving the hemoglobin levels and reducing the prevalence of anemia for all age groups, that is children 6-60 months, 5 − 10 years, adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant and lactating women and women in reproductive age group (15 − 45 years).

2. Universal screening of pregnant women for anaemia is a part of ante-natal care and all pregnant women are provided iron and folic acid tablets during their ante-natal visits through the existing network of sub-centres and primary health centres and other health facilities as well as through outreach activities at Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHNDs). These women are also counselled for dietary habits.

3. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan(PMSMA) has been recently launched to focus on conducting special ANC check up on 9th of every month with the help of Medical officers/ OBGYN to detect and treat cases of anemia.

4. Health management information system & Mother Child tracking system is being implemented for reporting and tracking the cases of anemic and severely anemic pregnant women.

5. Every pregnant woman is provided with about 360 tablets of iron and folic acid to cover the ante natal and post natal period. Pregnant women, who are found to be clinically anemic, are given additional tablet for taking two tablets daily.

6. Operationalization of Blood Bank in District Hospitals and Blood Storage Unit in Sub district facilities such as Sub-Divisional Hospital/ Community health Centers is being taken to tackle complications due to severe anemia etc.

7. To tackle the problem of anemia due to malaria particularly in pregnant women and children, Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) and Insecticide Treated Bed Nets (ITBNs) are being distributed in endemic areas.

8. Health and nutrition education through IEC & BCC to promote dietary diversification, inclusion of iron folate rich food as well as food items that promotes iron absorption.

9. MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet is being distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on dietary diversification and promotion of consumption of IFA.

10. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material in the form of posters, hoardings, wall-writings and audio-visuals have been developed to promote prevention of anemia.

11. Videos and job-aids for nutrition and health education have also been disseminated to the States/UT.

12. The states /UTs proposes funds for procurement of IFA supplements based on their annual requirement, in their annual PIP.

Measures for the prevention of breast cancer and to increase the awareness-
1. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government for improving healthcare including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Cancer. The objectives of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) for interventions up to district level include awareness generation for Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level institution for treatment. The focus is on three types of cancer namely breast, cervical and oral cancer.

2. Operational guidelines for implementing population wide screenings of common cancer viz. breast, cervical and oral cancer have been issued to the State Governments. The guidelines include screening for the risk factors of cancer among common Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

3. Such screening will also spread awareness on the risk factors of common NCDs including cancer. Self-Breast Examination is also promoted for early detection for breast cancer. Electronic and Print media is utilized for health awareness for cancer.

(d): Under NHM, all services related to pregnant women in terms of Ante-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care including complications are being provided free of cost through the existing network of public health facilities i.e. sub-centre, primary health centers, community health centers and District Hospitals and as conveyed by the State no special hospital is being created in Bundelkhand.